**Reflexive Testing**

Reflexive tests are taken after certain results are received from a first test. Reflexive tests are used to clarify or build on results of the first test and identify if more information is needed to make sure that the patient is given the right care.

Reflexive testing allows the person ordering the test to indicate what they need to find out and tell the laboratory exactly what to do next, depending on what results they get from the first test. Reflexive test recommendations are based on medical evidence.

**What does OHIP fund?**

OHIP funds medically necessary laboratory tests that are ordered by a physician.

**What changes are included in the 2012 Physician Services Agreement and why?**

- The 2012 Agreement will change current regulations that prevent reflexive testing by laboratories so that they will allow reflexive testing. This will mean that:
  - Physicians will not need to order a large group of tests in advance, because they will be able to tell the laboratory which one to do depending on the results of the first test.
  - Fewer unnecessary tests will be done, and a lower cost to the health care system. This frees both the doctor and the laboratory to provide services for other patients.
  - Patients will not need to make repeat visits to their physician and to the laboratory to take unnecessary tests, which will mean less effort for patients to travel back and forth to their doctor. This will ensure that the care that is provided is more centred on the needs of the patient.
- Some examples of conditions and situations where reflexive testing may increase the efficiency of test ordering include:
  - Macrocytic anemia which happens when there are not enough large red blood cells in the blood.
  - Thyroid tests which are ordered to make sure that the thyroid gland in the neck is working properly.
- Reflexive testing has been used successfully by laboratories in other jurisdictions.

**Will patients continue to be funded by OHIP for laboratory tests that are medically necessary and ordered by a physician?**

Yes, patients will continue to be funded by OHIP for laboratory tests that are medically necessary and ordered by a physician.
**What are the savings from this change in the first and second years of the Agreement?**

- Physician fee savings: $1.6 million (2012/13); $6.6 million (2013/14).

**When is this change effective?**

This change is effective on January 1, 2013.

**Supporting Evidence and For More Information**

OHIP InfoBulletin #4585